

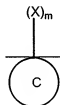
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

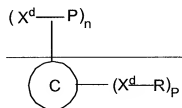
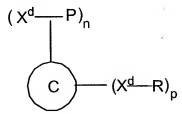
1-383. (Canceled)

384. (Currently Amended) A peptide immunogen-protein/polypeptide carrier conjugate ~~of~~ wherein the protein/polypeptide carrier has the formula:



wherein,

C is a protein/polypeptide carrier and X is a derivatizable functional group of an amino acid residue on the protein/polypeptide carrier or optionally of an amino acid residue of a peptide linker covalently attached to the protein/polypeptide carrier, and, wherein m is an integer greater than 0, but less than or equal to 85, and wherein the peptide immunogen-protein/polypeptide carrier conjugate has the formula:



wherein,

C is a[[the]] protein/polypeptide carrier selected from the group consisting of CRM₁₉₇, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ORF1224, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ORF1664, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ORF2452, *Chlamydia pneumoniae* ORF T367, and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* ORF T858, [[and]]

X^d is a derivatized functional group of an amino acid residue of the protein/polypeptide carrier or optionally of an amino acid residue of a peptide linker covalently attached to the protein/polypeptide carrier, ~~and, wherein,~~

P is a peptide immunogen molecule covalently attached to the derivatized functional group of the amino acid residue of the protein carrier or optionally of an amino acid residue of a peptide linker covalently attached to a protein/polypeptide carrier,

R is a capping molecule covalently attached to the derivatized functional group of an amino acid residue of the protein/polypeptide carrier or optionally of an amino acid residue of a peptide linker covalently attached to a protein/polypeptide carrier, ~~wherein thereby preserving~~ the functionality of the carrier is preserved such that it retains its ability to elicit the desired immune responses against the peptide immunogen that would otherwise not occur without a carrier,

n is an integer greater than 0, but less than or equal to 38[[85]], and

p is an integer greater than 0, but less than 38[[85]].

385. (Canceled)

386. (Currently Amended) The conjugate of claim 384[[385]], wherein the protein/polypeptide carrier is CRM₁₉₇.

387. (Previously Presented) The conjugate of claim 384, wherein the peptide immunogen is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial protein, a viral protein, and a eukaryotic protein.

388-391. (Canceled)

392. (Currently Amended) An immunogenic composition, comprising a conjugate of a peptide immunogen with a protein/polypeptide carrier generated by the method of claim 384[[377]], together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents, and/or adjuvants.

393. (Canceled)

394. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 392[[393]], wherein the protein/polypeptide carrier is CRM₁₉₇.

395. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 392, wherein the peptide immunogen is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial protein, a viral protein, a fungal protein, a parasite protein, and a eukaryotic protein.

396. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 392, wherein one or more adjuvants are selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, 529 SE, IL-12, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Bordetella pertussis*, bacterial lipopolysaccharides, aminoalkyl glucosamine phosphate compounds, MPL™ (3-O-deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A), a polypeptide, Quil A, STIMULON™ QS-21, a pertussis toxin (PT), an *E.coli* heat-labile toxin (LT), IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-10, IL-13, IL-14, IL-15, IL-16, IL-17, IL-18, interferon- α , interferon- β , interferon- γ , G-CSF, TNF- α and TNF- β .

397-401. (Canceled)

402. (New) The immunogenic conjugate of claim 384, wherein the capping molecule is a product of reacting the conjugate with a capping reagent selected from the group consisting of cysteamine, N-acetylcysteamine, ethanolamine, ammonia, ammonium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide and sodium carbonate.